

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A gaming machine capable of accepting bills, the gaming machine comprising:
 - a cabinet;
 - a door provided on a front face of the cabinet;
 - a bill insertion slot provided in the door;
 - a bill guide plate provided on the door and extending forward from a lower end of the bill insertion slot for guiding a bill into the bill insertion slot, wherein the bill guide plate has a plurality of openings for dropping foreign matter separated from the bill, and partition members arranged within the openings for partitioning each of the openings into a plurality of small openings;
 - a guide part positioned under the openings of the bill guide plate for guiding the foreign matter dropped from said openings downwards; and
 - a container disposed at a rear face of the door and below the guide part for collecting the foreign matter.
2. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein an upper opening of the container is positioned substantially vertically below the guide part and has a larger cross-sectional area than a lower end part of the guide part.
3. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the container is detachably mounted to the rear face of the door.

4. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the container has a rectangular horizontal cross-section, and one of long sides of the rectangular cross-section faces the rear face of the door when the container is mounted to the door.

5. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the container is formed of a substantially transparent or semi-transparent material.

6. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein a storage capacity of the container is one liter or less.

7. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, further comprising:

a bill validator provided in the cabinet and adjacent the bill insertion slot for receiving and evaluating the bill guided by the bill guide plate.

8. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 7, wherein the bill validator is configured to validate the authenticity and quality of the bill guided by the bill guide plate.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 3, wherein two latches are provided on the rear face of the door; and two pins for respectively engaging the latches protrude from two side faces of the container.

11. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 3, wherein the container, when mounted to the door, is moveable therewith, thereby facilitating removal of the foreign matter collected in the container.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, further comprising a coin slot provided in the door and different from the bill insertion slot for receiving coins utilizable with the gaming machine.

14. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein when the container is mounted to the rear face of the door, the guide part defines, at all times, a passage from the opening of the bill guide plate to an upper opening of the container.

15. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the guide part is fixed immovably to the door.

16. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the container comprises

an upper narrowed portion that has an opening vertically aligned with a lower end of the guide part for receiving the foreign matter guided downwardly by the guide part; and

a lower enlarged portion having a completely closed bottom and for containing the foreign matter received through the opening of the upper narrowed portion.

17. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 16, wherein the container is detachably mounted to the door in a vicinity of a shoulder between the upper narrowed portion and the lower enlarged portion.

18. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 16, wherein two latches are provided on the rear surface of the door; and two pins for detachably engaging the latches, respectively, protrude from opposite sides of the lower enlarged portion.

19. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the partition members are configured to prevent a coin usable with the gaming machine from passing through the small openings of the bill guide plate and being collected in the container.

20. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 19, wherein a length of each of the small openings is formed to be smaller than a diameter of the coin.

21. (Previously presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the bill guide plate has an open bottom part that has an inclined peripheral wall; and the guide part also has an open bottom part that also has an inclined peripheral wall.

22. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 7, wherein the bill validator is entirely enclosed within the cabinet.

23. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein an upper side of the bill guide plate is constantly exposed and uncovered so that a bill can be pressed directly down into engagement therewith.

24. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 1 wherein the container comprises a bottle-shaped container configured to store foreign matter which passes through the bill guide plate while the bill guide is disposed in a position wherein it extends from a front of the door.